State Government, about the progress achieved in implementing the IRDP programmes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) A Conference of Secretaries and Ministers of Rural Development was held on 23rd and 24th October, 1986 respectively. The implementation of rural development programmes in general and IRDP in particular, was reviewed. The States have been advised to ensure that targets fixed for the current year are achieved.

(b) A statement indicating allocation made to each State for IRDP during the last three years is attached [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No 69]

(c) and (d) The States are required to send monthly progress reports as per key indicators for monitoring of the programme. No separate report has been asked for.

Revision of list of scheduled castes

1751. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for considering a particular caste as scheduled caste;

(b) whether there are some communities, who do not conform to these norms are included in the list of Scheduled Castes at present, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure that the list is revised in terms of the norms?

THE DEPUTY MINSTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The norms adopted for scheduling a community as Scheduled Caste in relation to a State/Union Territory include fulfilling the criteria viz., extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability and consultation with the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration and the Registrar General of India. The above norms were adopted while notifying Presidential Orders specifying Scheduled Castes in relation to various States/Union Territorises in accordance with the provisions made under Article 341 of the Constitution.

Imported steel billets

1752. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th October, 1986 under the caption "No claimant for imported billets";

(b) what were the specifications given by the SAIL to the MMTC for import of the billets;

(c) what were the specifications given by the MMTC to the contractor — supplier of the billets;

(d) whether it is a fact that the billets were examined by an independent body before the shipment, if so, what is the report of the body; and

(e) what is the extent of loss likely to be suffered in this deal and what action is being taken by the SAIL/MMTC to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited had requested Minerals and Metlas Trading Corporation of India Limited for import of billets conforming to IS: 2830/75 Gr. II Fe 410 SB